1996-97 to augment availability in the country. The State Trading Corporation of India has, upto 14.2.97, finalised contracts for purchase of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat. This includes contracts for import of 2.50 lakh tonnes from Canada. Adequate precautions have been taken to ensure that the imported wheat conforms to the parameters prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary and quarantine norms laid down by the Government of India. As per the terms of the contracts the wheat to be shipped has to undergo pre-shipment quality inspection by the Government agencies in Canada & Australia and by internationally reputed quality surveyors in the case of Argentina.

Procurement Prices of Food-grains for Current Year

930. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement price of wheat, rice and other foodgrains have been fixed for the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Procurement prices of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains fixed for the current 1996-97 Rabi/Kharif Marketing Season are as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Commodity	Procurement Price
Wheat	380.00
Paddy	
Common	380.00
Fine	395.00
Superfine	415.00
Coarsegrains	
Jowar, Ragi and Bajra	310.00
Maize	320.00
Barley	295.00

Procurement prices of wheat and barley for the forthcoming 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season have also been fixed at Rs. 415.00 and Rs. 305.00 per quintal respectively.

Government's Policy Putting Sugar Industry in Loss

931. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy adopted by Government towards sugar units by giving more concession to new sugar industries is putting the whole sugar industry in loss; and

(b) if so, the reason for Government's proposal to apply uniform sugar policy for new and old sugar industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The incentives in the form of additional free sale sugar quota for new sugar factories and expansion projects have been in vogue since the Sampath Committee recommendations in 1975. Incentive schemes are formulated on the basis of recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices in order to make projects feasible.

Canadian Shipment of Wheat to India

932. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge Canadian shipment of wheat to India has been held up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of wheat being imported from Canada along with value thereof;

(d) whether India has signed wheat import deals with any other country, if so, the details in this regad; and

(e) the total wheat to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shipments of Canadian wheat have

been held up due to adverse weather conditions in Canada. The original shipment schedule was from 1st to 28th February, 1997. As per the latest information (as on 27.2.1997) the delay in shipments of Canadian wheat consignments would be to the extent of 2 to 3 weeks.

(c) A quantity of 2.50 lakh MT of wheat has been contracted for import from Canada at the rate of US$ 152.50 per MT FOB. The total FOB value of 2.50 lakh MTs works out to US$ 38.12 million.

(d) Yes, Sir. Apart from Canada, contracts for import of wheat from Australia and Argentina as per details given below have also been signed:

Country	Quantity lakh MT	Rate US$ per MT
Australia	10.00	148.00 FOB
Australia	3.25	156.00 FOB
Argentina	1.00	173.00 C&F

(e) Government have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97.

Review of Levy Sugar Prices

933. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since reviewed the levy sugar prices as per decision taken by the Supreme Court recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount to be paid to the sugar industry and by when the payment is proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The implications of the Supreme Court's judgement dated 28.1.1997 particularly regarding the modalities of implementation are being studied.

Diversion of Wheat by FCI to Traders at Lower Rates

934. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India diverted wheat to traders at Hyderabad at lower rate as reported in Newstime dated the 17th January, 1997;

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to increase the storage capacity of the godowns in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The open sale prices are fixed by the Government from time to time after taking relevant factors into consideration.

(c) Sufficient storage capacity for storing foodgrains in A.P. Region is available. This is around 15.0 lakh M.T. FCI also acquires additional storage capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporation and other agencies as and when the need is felt.

Wheat Crisis in Andhra Pradesh

935. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of wheat crisis prevailing in Andhra Pradesh the Food Corporation of India disposed of 5750 tonnes of wheat during last 4 months at lower rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check proper use of the wheat meant for PDS in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA